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SOURCE Narodna Kooperatsiya.

ORGANIZATION OF ALBANIAN COOPERATIVES

Albanian cooperatives are under the two following central associations with headquarters in Tirana: the Central Consumer Cooperative Association and the Central Artisan Cooperative Association.

First in importance is the Consumer Cooperative Association which has the following units: two rrreth cooperative associations, eight Class I consumer cooperatives, three procurement and sale cooperatives per rrreth, six fishery cooperatives, four milk processing cooperative enterprises, and two cooperatives for storing agricultural and animal products. The rrreth cooperative associations contain 13 Class II consumer cooperatives and six cooperatives for procurement and sale. The total manpower of all these cooperatives is 6,000 persons, including 900 women. The total membership of the consumer cooperatives is 189,000 men and women. Counting families of members, they serve one million persons.

Second in importance is the Central Association of Artisan Cooperatives, including the following groups: 17 cooperatives for clothing, 23 for footwear, 15 for milling and cutting metals, nine for woodworking, five for native sandals, one for linen and cotton articles of apparel, eight for smith work, seven for tinsmith work, four for horseshoeing, nine for knitted goods, one for weaving, one for water power, two for leather processing, three for tanning, one for comb-making, one for native Albanian costumes, two for cartwrighting, one each for straw wares, bicycle repairs, electricity, dyeing, and steam boiler repairs, and 14 special cooperatives. The whole Central Association of Artisan Cooperatives comprises 135 cooperatives with 4,800 members, including 765 women. Artisan cooperatives, in addition to their regular activity, have auxiliary functions: footwear cooperatives deal in native sandals, blacksmith cooperatives work in aluminum, and tinsmith cooperatives also perform boiler repairs.

With the aid of the party and government, the Albanian cooperatives are improving their methods of cooperative trade and production and utilizing the experience of consumer and production cooperatives in the USSR and the people's democracies.

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